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A SHORT HISTORY OF THE CONVENTION: OR, NEW Chriſtned Parliament.

I Shall not entertain the World with ſhewing how Unwarrantablyit was called,and how Irregularly many of its Members were Choſen; but ſhall leave its Birth and Infancy,and begin my Reflections where that has begun to Act in its politick Capacity. This Convention or Knot of Men, tho' we with ſo great reaſon railed atRegulation,both in the Reigns of King *James* and King *Charles* II. muſt pick out a Speaker Elected upon a Regulation. I am not willing to add, that He was recommended to *Windſor* by the Duke of *Norfolk*; for then I muſt object againſt the many others recommended by that Duke,my L.*Lovelace*,&c. as even inconſiſtent with the Eſſence of an *Engliſh Free-choſen* Parliament to intermedle with the Elections; but that which I here remark, is how unlikely it was, that we ſhould be re-inſtated in our Liberties by a Mob, who made ſo falſe a ſtep at their very Entrance upon ſo great a Work: But let us go forward and ſee whether they have not Eſtabliſhed our Religion, and Protected our Liberties by Acts ſuitable to this. Into our Religion they have Introduc'd the Doctrine of *Depoſing Princes*, *breaking Faith with Hereticks*, *Abſolving Subjects from their Allegiance*, and into our Politicks, *Elective Monarchy*, a Civil Tranſubſtantion by a *Hoc eſt Parliamentum*, *A Suſpenſion of Oathes and Teſts*, and of the *Habeas Corpus* Act into the bargain; and in exchange for theſe, they will ſettle a Martial Law to Execute Soldiers: In good Faith when I reflect upon theſe things, how fooliſh, and how *Popiſh*, theſe Councels are; I fear Father *Peters*, by a certain communication of Spirit, is got into our Senate Houſe, and Actuates moſt that are there. To ſpeak very ſeriouſly, I fear, that as in the Uſurpers days, ſome ſecret Prieſts put the People upon thoſe evil Practices, which all Parties were willing to diſown; every Body repented of, and for which we kept an *Anniverſary Faſt*; ſo I ſay, I fear as *Proteſtant* as theſe Men ſeem to be, they are blown into theſe Meaſures by ſome that wiſh not well to our *Sion* that they may affix thereto an indelible Reproach; I could wish, that both for the Honour and Security of the *Proteſtant Religion* theſe Conventioners, and the Prince of *Orange* himſelf would conſider how much they have defac'd the Purity of it, and that they would both joyn together, out of a ſenſe of their Sin, to recal our Rightful King, and that with Repentance and Humiliation, with Faſting, Supplication and Tears, we may be reconciled to our God; and ſo diſſipate that Cloud, and avoid that impending ſtorm of Blood and Violence that ſeems to Threaten almoſt the whole Chriſtian World. King *James* reſtored by the *Proteſtants*, muſt purſue *Proteſtant Meaſures*, and ſtrike in with the *Engliſh Genius* and *Intereſt*, and would thereby be enabled to give Laws to *Europe*, and adjuſt the Differences thereof, and ſo ſettle its *Peace*, and promote its Welfare; but alas, how weak will this Nation be, how miſerable upon

upon our new Foundations? When thoſe pretend to Legiſlation that have no right to it, the Conſciences of brave and honeſt Subjects will not yeild Obedience; the Conſciences of weaker Men will be Enſnared, and thoſe who have no Conſcience at all themſelves preſcribe to others. It is plain by the Conteſt, as well in the lower as the upper Houſe, that *Abdication and Vacancy* was not the Senſe of the Church of *England*; and though ſome Church of *England* Divines, nay though the *Biſhops* themſelves ſhould write that we were Abſolv'd from our Allegiance; we who believe no Infallibility, ſhould think theſe Opinions proceeded from Fear, or Ambition rather then Judgment, and ſhould pitty the Infirmities and Weakneſſes of Men, but proteſt againſt [illegible] Doctrines. To what Diviſions have theſe Conventioners brought us? What [illegible] divided Kingdom do? How long can it ſtand? God knows my intended Satyr too ſoon and too juſtly ends in Lamentation. I would have the Prince of *Orange*, as well as the Conventioners know, that our Eyes are more and more open, that the Nation ſuffers under a Convulſive Agony, by reaſon of the late *Impious ſteps*; and that we ſee theſe Men, who pretend to Settle our Religion, have in complyance with his Deſires, broke through the inconteſtable points of it, and inſtead of Securing our Liberties, Enſlaved us to his Will and Pleaſure; that even theſe people who would be thought a Free Parliament, were Over-awed and Governed by the Prince, and received Inſtructions from him and his Creatures after their Country had choſe them, is evident to all that recollect how little the Country dream'd of making him King *William* at the time of their choice; thoſe that had the moſt abandoned their Loyalty, deſigned to break through their Duty and our Conſtitution no farther then Crowning his *Princeſs*; but a little before there ſitting, out comes a Pamphlet, writ by that Conſcientious Reformer of Church and State, that Herauld of his Highneſs his Mind, the Worthy Mr. *Ferguſon*, which was to perſwade the People how much more it was for their Intereſt to chooſe [illegible] and [illegible] monious Foot changed their Notes, and thoſe of [illegible] that would not comply, were Bullied by the Prince, as Sir *Ed. Sey.* of the *Weſt*, &c. or by my Lord *Dei.* as *Hall.* and indeed both Houſes by my Lord *Lov.* with his *Poſſe Mobilitatis*, with this ſort of free Conference, this ſort of Parliamentary Liberty of Speech, the King is laid aſide, without any of his charged Faults prov'd upon him, and the Government changed into Elective, that they might reward the Prince for driving away our King; this is the Juſtice, this the Spirit, this the Religion of theſe Men, theſe are our *Liberatores Populi Anglicani*, theſe our *Protectores Religionis Proteſtantium*. To conclude in a word, I would have Them and the Prince too know, that there are in the Nation a People Numerous enough, and as far from *Popery*, as this Convention or Knot can be, who can neither be Brib'd by Places, nor Penſions; and who have no Malice againſt the Perſon of his Father in Law, though they miſliked ſome Male-Adminiſtrations; that can and will make a Noble Attempt to reſcue us from this Bondage, reſtore us to our Antient Conſtitution, and ſhake [illegible] Throne, having Truth, Juſtice and God on their ſide.

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